

ABOUT STATE SOVEREIGNTY.

An Able Review of a Masterly Argument.

COL. J. P. THOMAS REVIEWS.

A Speech Made by Dr. S. S. Laws Fifteen Years Ago--Worthy of the Deepest Study.

[J. P. Thomas, in the Columbia State.] In 1882 Dr. S. S. Laws, of Columbia, was president of the State University of Missouri, at Columbia, Mo.

On May 10, 1882, he delivered before the Missouri Press association what I consider a remarkable speech. I am not surprised to find from the contemporaneous comments that it produced a political sensation in the State of Missouri. It is called "Sovereignty, as realized in our American system of government."

It will be found upon examination to be a learned, bold, original exposition of that question of questions with us in the political world--State sovereignty. The Secretary of State, acting for the historical commission recently obtained from Dr. Laws a copy of this address and placed it among the records of the Secretary of State's office. I have been permitted to inspect the address and have been invited to call public attention thereto. It is a matter of regret that a paper so valuable is in newspaper form. Some method should be devised to put it in pamphlet form so that it might be distributed for the instruction of the public and at the same time be more conveniently read and studied.

With these preliminary remarks, I proceed to make a brief analysis of the views of Dr. Laws upon the subject of sovereignty in general and then of its application to our American system of government.

Starting out with the proposition that all government implies sovereignty Dr. Laws first considers the identification and location of sovereignty, and then of necessity goes down to what he calls the bed rock of fundamental and universal principles.

Inasmuch as our system of general government is a union of States, he logically and of necessity inquires, first of all, as to the true nature of a State, second as to the nature of that union of States formulated in the "Constitution of the United States of America."

1. The doctor asked what is a State? He answers it is an organized sovereign political society. Defining next the origin of society and its function and showing how "political" qualifies society and imports the purpose of association, he concludes that as to sovereignty in this connection it is that which by its indwelling in any political society constitutes that society a State. "Sovereignty," he says, "is to the State as the soul is to the body."

Dr. Laws is clear and his statement explicit as to "what constitutes a State." He goes far deeper than Sir William Jones in his famous lines. It is not "men, high-minded men, men who know their rights, and knowing dare maintain"--not this only. This may do for poetry and declamation. But the philosophy of the subject is deeper and more comprehensive and more accurate. Dr. Laws well says that sovereignty is "the attribute which differentiates political society as States from other political societies, which, from lack of it, are by common consent and treatment not States." "All States are political societies, but all political societies are not States." To illustrate his meaning, he suggests that Canada, for instance, and Algiers, and Liberia and Cuba, being subject, respectively, to England, France, Russia and Spain, are not States, because of the absence of sovereignty. The doctor's idea is that to make a mere political community a State, there must be breathed into the community the soul of sovereignty. Thus he is led here to give his conception of the genesis of State sovereignty in this "indestructible union of imperishable States." I quote the learned doctor's exact words in this important declaration. He says: "The thirteen American colonies, before the declaration of 1776, were distinct political communities, possessing language, religion, literature and traditions, interests and blood in common; while politically independent of each other, they were all alike dependent on the crown. Hence none of them were States, because they were not themselves sovereign but subject to England. The severance of that bond of subordination invested each colony with the differentiative attribute of sovereignty. The dormant spark of sovereignty in the bosom of each was at once kindled, and thirteen sovereign States sprang into active being."

Dr. Laws thus argues that in every political community there are the germs of sovereignty, which, through the action of the community, and in the exercise of God-given rights, may yield the flowering and the fruitage of State sovereignty. Surely, this is a thought at once high and philosophical and fundamental. Having shown the distinction between de facto and de jure sovereignty, and how though the power of sovereignty is simple, yet its functions are complex, the acute speaker, in his scientific method of treating his subject next discusses the locus of sovereignty in the State. This he shows to be an important question, since in every organized State there are two entirely distinct parts, viz: The people constituting the society and the government. Referring to the fallacious theory of such men as Hobbes, Bentham and others that sovereignty has its seat in the government, a theory held by monarchists and imperialists, Dr. Laws well says that our American theory is that sovereignty dwells in the people--that our whole government facie rests on the view that all the original power of the State rests on the people as expressed in their Constitutions or in the laws enacted in accordance therewith.

3. The only original and inherent sovereignty known in our system being that of each individual State it follows that the real sovereignty to which the Constitution of the United States gives

expression is not singular but plural. E Pluribus Unum.

6. On the basis thus laid down, we find the only true and philosophical interpretation of our union, and the only effective guaranty of its preservation and perpetuity.

These are the six propositions discussed by Dr. Laws in his masterly way with robust language and virile thought and with rich precedents, augmenting his own force with the views of acknowledged authority on government and Constitutional law.

Nor, he argues, does it follow that, because nullification has been abandoned as an incident of State sovereignty, and the right of secession destroyed by the result of the war between the States, the great principle of State sovereignty has been lost though shorn of its locks of Nullification and Secession. I add, State sovereignty is a Sampson still necessary to uphold, not to pull down, the pillars of our great American Union.

In closing his discussion Dr. Laws most significantly observes how in avoiding the Scylla of disintegration we must avoid the Charybdis of consolidation. This hydra of consolidation is what the modern Hercules must stay if its miscreant front should rise to vex the Republic.

Says Dr. Laws: "The opponents of the doctrine of State sovereignty, our only political hope, have but a small store of misread history out of which to weave their fallacious and pernicious subtleties."

These States, freighted with the diverse and precious treasures of a Christian civilization, though moving each in its assigned orbit, are united in a sacred and indissoluble union which promises untold blessings to unnumbered generations. Onward they severally and collectively move in their appointed paths of administration:

"Not chaotic, together crushed and bruised; But like the world harmoniously confused, Where order in variety we see, And where, though all things differ, all agree."

Thus Dr. Laws closes. It is an imperial theme, discussed ably, accurately, conclusively, in an imperial way.

I feel indebted to the author of what is not properly a speech, as it is called in my copy, but a thorough disquisition on sovereignty, for the light, the white light of truth, with which he has illuminated and educated his subject.

11. Having now shown what a State is, Dr. Laws proceeds next to the inquiry. What is the nature of that union of States formulated in our United States Constitution? Certainly this is a pregnant question, one that has elicited the highest argumentation from 1776 to 1897 at the hands of the country's master spirits in statesmanship. I have not the space at my command here to enter fully into the argument of Dr. Laws on this branch of his theme. He clearly establishes through the instrumentality of his keen logic and his wealth of erudition these propositions:

1. The theory of our American system is that of popular sovereignty.

2. The vindication of the Declaration of Independence established thirteen sovereign States.

3. The States remained sovereign under the Thirteen Articles and did not change their individual characters in substituting therefore the Constitution.

4. The people, in whom sovereignty in our system is located, is not the general or aggregate mass, but in particular the people of each individual State.

I have but one criticism to make, and slight as it is, I make it with some hesitancy, so much am I impressed with the superior attainments, grasp and ability of Dr. Laws. In speaking, in the beginning of his argument, about the literature of the subject and the sources of information to which the student should resort, the Doctor mentions Eliot's Debates on the Federal Constitution, in five volumes, which embrace the Madison papers, the Kentucky and the Virginia resolutions, and the debate between Webster and Hayne. He mentions also "The Federalist," the joint work of Hamilton, Madison and Jay. Further, he quotes from such authors as Guizot, Montesquieu, Maine, Cooley, Curtis, Webster and others. This is well. They are all "honorable men," all eminent authorities.

But we no where find any reference to Calhoun, whose works on Government and Discourse on the Government and Constitution of the United States sound the very depths of his subject, making him like Aristotle in his philosophical tone, as he was like Cato in his firmness, and like Burke and Chatham in the forum of his country. Divest Calhoun of his nullification and his secession theories and he remains the great American exponent of State sovereignty. To augment yet more the monuments of the great principle for which Dr. Laws nobly and boldly stood fifteen years ago in Missouri, breasting like a brave man the tide of adverse thought, and defying popular clamor, he could invoke no greater name than that of John Caldwell Calhoun.

When the argument is made for State sovereignty, not forgotten should be two arguments--that of Jefferson Davis in the "Rise and Fall of the Confederacy" and above all, which is my point now--Calhoun's Works.

Nor forgotten should be how Calhoun lived and died in the harness of State Rights. Divest him of his nullification and secession garb and the body of his contention remains. His sum is obscured by the mists of the present, but it will continue to shine. What a spectacle does his life and death suggest!

He was one of Plutarch's men. Solon, exhausting his powers to defend his country and her laws; Demosthenes laboring with fiery eloquence to save the liberties of Greece. Cicero pleading in the forum for the freedom of the better days of Rome. These give sublime pictures of heroes struggling for the right.

But not less grand is the spectacle of intense patriotism, presented by the sage of Fort Hill, when to the last he combated with unequalled logic the consolidation of our government, and, in unanswerable and unanswerable arguments, vindicated the scheme as it came with its coronet of State rights fresh from the hands of the august Fathers of the Republic.

With this word for Calhoun, I close this review of the masterly paper of Dr. Laws, and repeat that so valuable a contribution to the literature of State sovereignty ought not to remain dormant in the archives of the department of the Secretary of State, but ought to be prepared for circulation especially among the rising generation, so that

the cause in which their fathers fought or died may be duly magnified, and further that end that one of the great canons of the creed of our people should be revived in the minds, not only of South Carolina, but of the whole Union. Since, he remembered, State sovereignty is not local in its healing properties, but is a sovereign remedy for the case of the whole body politic.

SENATORIAL CANDIDATES.

Some of the "Starters" Considered in the Forthcoming Race.

It is hardly probable that Mr. McLaurin will be allowed to enjoy an uncontested right to the vacant seat in the United States Senate. Six or eight names have been mentioned already, and there are others. It may be that several of the expected aspirants are feeling their way at present, and some of them will doubtless fail to put in an appearance when the start is made. But the signs of the times point very strongly to the entrance of John Gary Evans into the arena, and he will almost certainly seek a "vindication" at the hands of the people, whether or not he has a pocket full of rocks to throw at other candidates. Then, too, there are faint glimmers that John L. M. Irby wants to shy his castor into the ring, with the expectation of retrieving the ground that he thinks was unnecessarily deserted last year. Hon. M. L. Donaldson has said that he will not be guided again by friends who underrated his strength before, and he has assured us that he favors a primary in which to test the matter. It would be well also to keep a weather eye on W. Jasper Talbert, of Edgefield, who would be a formidable competitor in case he took a notion to file his plea. There are a couple of young men, if not more, who would like for him to cause a vacancy in the Second Congressional District, and his elevation to the Senate would please them amazingly. Don't bet any thoroughbred animals that Mr. McLaurin will get there without a contest. --Greenville Mountaineer.

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

What President Keitt Says of the Alliance and Its Conditions.

THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

You're Not a Member Unless Your Name is Enrolled on the State Secretary's Book.

Since the last meeting of the State Alliance last summer very little has been heard of the organization. The time is rapidly approaching for the annual meeting this year. It will be held in Columbia in July and no doubt there will be a full attendance of the members representing all the counties of the State. At the last meeting the Alliance perfected its State exchange and it is said that the members have been greatly benefited through the operations of the exchange. They also took action in regard to the fight against the flat cotton trust, with the result that this year all the flat ties desired can be had cheaper than ever before.

In a card to The Cotton Plant, the organ of the Alliance, which is now edited by Mr. W. T. Crews, President Keitt has this to say about the Alliance, its conditions and so on; after referring to and endorsing a recent editorial in The Cotton Plant:

"Unfortunately too many do not discriminate between non-political and non-partisan. No one is authorized to say that the Alliance is non-political, for its first declaration of its organic law is the purpose to teach the science of economical government. How far-reaching the educational work has been is apparent to the close observer. The political conflict projected by the Alliance has for the most part been transferred to political parties. The Alliance organization has suffered much from division of political sentiment and respecting parties. This should not have been. A proper appreciation and observance of its non-partisan character should have prevented it. Those who have withdrawn from the organization for this reason are culpable--not the Alliance."

"While it is gratifying for me to note that some of the counties have increased their membership this year, too many are apparently indifferent. The names of many heretofore prominent in the organization are not enrolled on the book of the State secretary."

"As an organization to protect and advance the agricultural interests, the Alliance is as necessary now as it has ever been, and to promote these interests, should appeal as strongly as ever to the patriotic sentiments of every farmer. It is a great mistake to suppose that the operations of the Alliance are confined to political discussions or political actions. Its scope is almost unlimited. The Alliance of Newberry county combined this year and purchased fertilizer to a larger extent than ever before. Combinations in other business matters have proven very beneficial in this county. Under the auspices of the Alliance we will have a farmers' institute in August. There is no reason why the Alliance cannot be as effective in other counties of the State. There are many good agriculturists in the State whose names do not appear upon the roll. I wish to appeal to them to enroll and renew their interest in the organization. Make the Alliance what it should be. If its past has been meritorious why should we not go forward? We must be progressive or retrogressive. Which shall it be? I will ask the last county officers in the counties not enrolled to take the initiative in reorganization. Where it is not done, I will ask the officers of clubs and individuals who wish to preserve their membership, to communicate with the State secretary. No one is a member of the Alliance unless his name is enrolled on the book of the State secretary."

Little Boreham (relating his Alpine adventures)--There I stood, the terrible abyss yawning at my feet--That brute Brown--Was it yawning when you got there, or did it start after you arrived?--London Punch.

THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Elections for New Counties of Williamston and Honea Path.

SPARTANBURG'S NEW MILLS.

First Original Package Agency. Walks 52 Miles on Sundays--Higher Than Asheville.

For the State Teachers' Association meeting, at Hotel Altamont, on Paris mountain which is to take place from June 30th to July 5th, all railroads in the State have granted a one-fare round trip rate. The committee of the citizens of Greenville expect to meet the teachers at this station and tender them free transportation to the hotel, seven miles distant, in carriages. On the Fourth of July there will be a patriotic celebration on the top of the mountain. The hotel which has accommodations for 300 guests, will be given over to the ladies of the party, and the gentlemen will be quartered in cottages and tents. An auditorium for the sessions is now nearing completion and it will have a roof garden. Bands of music, cornet band and orchestra will also be provided for the teachers. The association at the meeting will consider the question of building a permanent house in some suitable locality for its annual meetings and the general opinion is that Paris mountain will be selected. The total attendance at the approaching meeting is expected to reach seven or eight hundred.

Senator McLaurin's full name is John Lowndes McLaurin. A great many people, and especially Marylanders, have asked him where the Lowndes in his name came from. The story is interesting. When his mother went to school at the Patapsco Institute in Maryland, her dearest chum was Miss Bessie Lowndes, and so when her boy was born, she called him Lowndes in honor of her schoolmate. Time passed and Miss Lowndes married a promising banker and politician in Cumberland named Lloyd Lowndes. Last March Mrs. McLaurin occupied a seat in the Senate Chamber and saw her son participating in the exercises as a member of Congress, while near him sat the husband of Bessie Lowndes, the Governor of the State of Maryland. --Washington Post.

Elections have been ordered to be held for Honea Path and Williamston counties on the 26th inst. These two new county schemes will be left to the decision of the ballot box. The territory which these counties desire has already been stated. Both wish certain territory and there has been a preliminary skirmish to prevent either from getting an election ahead of the other. To put them on an equal footing Governor Ellerbe ordered the elections on the same day. Only one of the proposed counties can be established.

We understand that ex-Governor Evans will defend Mr. Gaston when his case comes up next month. It is right and proper that he should do so. Governor Evans appointed Gaston, and he will not only have an opportunity of vindicating his position, but of ventilating the dispensary management and clearing his own name of those charges brought by John Duncan. We predict that when the Scruggs and Gaston cases come up there will be a terrible rattling among the dry bones around that Agricultural Hall. --Piedmont Headlight.

Joseph Camarata, an Italian fruit vender of Spartanburg, kept all his money in a tin box. He had accumulated about \$300 in bills and \$37 in gold. His little 4-year-old boy, Joe, knew where the money was secreted and threw the box in the stove. Several hours after the box being missed the boy confessed to the act. The box was found in the ashes of the stove. The bills were all burned. The gold is all right, however, although somewhat defaced by the heat, several five-dollar coins being nearly melted.

F. M. Simmons, of Greenville, advertises, so says the Atlanta Constitution, that he has been appointed agent of one of the big brewing establishments outside of this State, saying that "prompt delivery of fine beers will follow." It is the first original package agency established in the State since the Simonton decision was filed, so far as is known. Simmons, prior to the dispensary reign, was a saloonkeeper.

The last work is being completed on the two mill enterprises of Spartanburg. One is the Arkwright mills, the other the Spartan mills No. 2. These plants cost \$500,000. The Spartan mill is already running and the machinery at the Arkwright mills is practically laid. These enterprises will bring about 3,000 more people to that city.

E. B. Burroughs, formerly a prominent negro preacher of Greenville and now practicing law at Cheraw, is charged with fraudulently obtaining a signature to a real estate deed in the above city from Henry Fullenweider. Burroughs is alleged to have represented to Fullenweider that the paper was a mortgage.

Seneca has a pedestrian she will pit against any other walker. He is a Mormon elder and walks twenty-six miles every Sunday morning by 10 o'clock, conducts Sunday school and preaches, and then walks twenty-six miles back home in the evening, covering fifty-two miles in a day.

The editors of the Press Association and their friends who attended the Nashville Exposition in a body, have returned. Everyone gives glowing accounts of their trip to Nashville and their stop overs on the route.

Charleston is making great preparations for the reception of the new electric system of street railroads which will be in active operation within the next two or three weeks.

The war on Greek letter societies at Furman University is being pushed.

HELPING TILLMAN.

Simonton's Decision Has Aroused the Cold Water Element.

A special from Washington says: "The temperance elements all over the country are coming to the support of Senator Tillman in his desire to have light thrown on the question as to what legislation, if any, is necessary to give full effect of the law which accords to each State the right to regulate the liquor traffic within its borders."

"People who have been disposed to criticize the dispensary system and its abuses are with him in the fight which comes as the result of Judge Simonton's recent decision. Senator Hoar is one of the strong supporters of the Tillman position and most of the members of the Senate believe with him that Judge Simonton's decision is in the teeth of the Wilson law which was made to fit the Iowa case some years ago and under the operations of which the Maine law is made effective."

"That law was passed in 1830 and gives, in as plain language as a law can to each State, the same power to regulate the sale of liquors that are brought into that State, as the State has over liquors produced in the State, and the law adds that they 'shall not be exempt therefrom by reason of being introduced therein in original packages or otherwise.'"

"Judge Simonton bases his decision, as it is understood here, on the contention that the South Carolina law is not an exercise of the police power of the State."

"That it is the intention of Congress to give absolute control of the liquor traffic to the individual States there can be no doubt and if further legislation is necessary to perfect existing law on that point it will be enacted."

LIQUOR DEALERS HOLD BACK. They Have Placed Orders, But Have Not Received Goods Yet.

A special from Charleston to the Atlanta Constitution says: The wholesale grocery men and the ex-liquor dealers in Charleston seem to be holding back somewhat in ordering liquors for sale in the original packages, as allowed under Judge Simonton's decision.

They have placed orders but the stuff is not to be shipped until some definite steps are taken by the State administration. Before the dispensary law went into effect every other store in the city sold whiskey and beer, and a large majority of these men are now counting on selling again. One wholesale dealer has secured a warehouse and has it to appear that he is to act as the agent of some outside company that will ship the goods to the city to be warehoused and sold to individuals.

Since the decision was rendered the State constables, who have been idle for weeks, have started out on wholesale raids once more and have succeeded in capturing a great deal of contraband liquor. The reason seems to be that the blind tigers are putting too much faith in the injunction and are selling in the original drink more freely than usual.

Charleston is expecting a big revival in business relations when the dispensary is driven out of the field. An enormous amount of whiskey is sold and while the money leaves the average man poorer, it appears to put more money in circulation.

MOVEMENT FOR GOOD ROADS.

South Carolinians Putting Roads in Better Condition.

The progressive press of South Carolina has been agitating the question of good roads for a long time, but in the middle and low country, with very different results. In several counties in the Piedmont belt the people have realized the importance of good highways, and in several counties, notably in Pickens, Anderson and Greenville, considerable improvements have been made, considerable expense being incurred for road machines, mules, etc., and civil engineers being employed in the scientific part of the work. However, Richmond, of which Columbia is the county seat, has made the first move in the State to macadamize a highway. The beginning is on a very small scale, as a section of road just beyond the city limits, and only 170 yards in length, will be operated on. It is one of the worst places in the county, and bears a great amount of traffic.

Granite screenings will be used and the macadam will be nine inches thick. The progress of the experiment will be watched with great interest, because if it is successful, as to cost estimates and endurance, it is likely bonds will be issued to macadamize the roads of the township and all other county seats will take similar action. In the hilly country there is a quantity of the necessary rock.

With the chaingangs, which are worked in this county, the estimate cost is about \$1,100 a mile.

WRIT OF INJUNCTION FILED.

Judge Simonton's Decision is in Full Force.

In the United States circuit court at Charleston Judge Simonton has filed a writ of injunction against Liquor Commissioner Vance and members of the constabulary, defendants in the Vandercock case, restraining them from seizing or interfering with liquors shipped into South Carolina for sale to individuals in the original unbroken package.

This is the order carrying out the text of his decision but it deals only with the Vandercock Company. The court enjoins the defendants from seizing or attempting to seize in transit or after arrival or otherwise carrying away or confiscating any of the wines and liquors brought into this State for sale and bearing the stamp of the Vandercocks. They are further ordered not to interfere with liquors sent here to be warehoused and sold in original packages. The defendants are also enjoined from interfering with or hindering and preventing the complainants or agents in any way whatsoever from carrying on interstate commerce and intercourse in such liquors as may be imported to South Carolina by citizens, the right to which is secured to them by the Constitution of the United States, or in preventing in any way any person from engaging in such trade with the Vandercocks or from holding, using or consuming wines and liquors sent here from California or imported and sold in original packages in this State by the complainants to the citizens of South Carolina.

PRESS GANG INTERVIEWED.

Simonton's Decision Practically Kills the Dispensary.

REJOICING NEAR DARLINGTON.

No Special Session of the Legislature--Constabulary Should Be Modified to Some Extent.

The following interview between a representative of the Atlanta Constitution and Col. McSweeney, of the Hampton Guardian, along with others, taken place in Atlanta last Thursday, while the members of the State Press Association were stopping over in that city on their return from the Nashville Exposition and other places en route:

"The decision of Judge Simonton practically kills the dispensary system as it now exists," said Colonel McSweeney. "I have always been in favor of the dispensary, and believe it to be the best solution of the liquor question, but I would have the constabulary of South Carolina modified to some extent. There is a phase of this which is objectionable."

"There will be no special session of the Legislature, I here. It will be next March before the Legislature meets again, and it seems to me that the question will be settled before that time."

"One thing is sure, the saloon system will never be introduced in South Carolina again. It is practically dead, and all elements of the State are against it."

"It seems to me that the only thing that remains right now is for the State to go into the business of selling whisky, and underbid all competitors."

"The high tax question will come up also, and I believe that this will be the means by which the State can control the traffic."

"The peculiar feature of the decision of Judge Simonton has struck me, and that is that there can be nothing like local option in South Carolina. He declares that the present system is in direct violation of interstate commerce laws, and says that whisky can be sold in any part of the State in original packages. Suppose a county should declare against the sale of whisky, the law could not be enforced, for the decision of Judge Simonton makes the sale of original packages legal anywhere."

"There is no other solution but that of high tax."

"WILL GIVE THEM H--L. 'Correct, correct you are,' said his honor, Col. H. H. Evans, the mayor of Newberry, who was in the crowd about Col. McSweeney."

"This decision will give those constables hell."

"I want you to put that in," he said, turning to the representative of the Constitution.

"Yes, sir; it will give those scoundrels hell, and I am d--n glad of it."

"That's good South Carolina talk," he continued. "We don't do anything or say anything in a milk-and-water way over there."

"I believe the present system is dead, and it might as well be admitted. I was opposed to the dispensary at first and was a strong conservative, but I will never, and the people of South Carolina will never consent to the saloons coming in again. It is a vicious system--these saloons."

"Looks like to me the only way to do is to raise the tax just as Col. McSweeney says."

REJOICING NEAR DARLINGTON.

"There will be great joy in my neck of woods," said T. J. Drew, of Hartsville. "I live near Darlington, the scene of the great riot, and I'll venture to say that the people there are rejoicing over the fall of the dispensary system."

"They have no love for the constables, you know, and this decision of Simonton will almost break up the methods of these officers."

Colonel Elbert A. Aull, editor of the Newberry Herald, and president of the State Press Association, thought that the high license was the only method open to the present administration.

Thus the editors talked of the dispensary question, and their decision will soon be put into effect through the force of their papers.

Trusts are destroying themselves. They are engaged in every line in a systematic suicide. Nature abhors monopoly as it abhors a vacuum. There is something in human nature and human conditions which prevents the formation or the continuance if partial formation is had of a combination in restraint of trade. Some one will break away from the imperfect union and war will result. On every hand is evidence of the truth of this assertion. Grapling each other, trusts are everywhere destroying themselves. The latest fello de se is the United States Rubber Company, which has been endeavoring to rid itself of its rival, the Boston Rubber Shoe Company, and in the war which has succeeded is well-nigh at death's door itself. Its stock is rapidly declining, and before the war ends the price will probably be next to nothing.

Man's Bitterest Enemy.

"Sin is always man's bitterest enemy," writes Dwight L. Moody, in "Mr. Moody's Bible Class," in the Ladies' Home Journal. "It separates him from his fellow-beings. No position is so high for sin to debase; no place so hallowed but it seeks to corrupt; no home so sacred but it seeks to destroy. 'Sin, like hell, is a mighty leveler,' says a distinguished divine. And what may be the cause of the thousands of suicides which have occurred during the past year if it is not a loathing of self? It is sin then which makes a man loathe himself. It is sin which makes man's life become a burden from which he so often seeks to free himself by his own hand."

She--Oh, yes! The predictions are in this column headed "Weather Probabilities." He--That's right. If they called it "Weather Possibilities" it wouldn't be so bad.--Puck.